

Issue #7

PBRN Week in Review | March 6, 2009

PBRN Grantees: Please circulate relevant information to your network members. For additional information and suggestions for future items, please contact Elaine Wootten, woottenelaine@uams.edu or 501-526-6628.



Spring Forward!
Daylight Saving Time starts Sunday,
March 8th, at 2:00 am!

Notable Activities this Week and next Week

- The monthly PBRN Conference Call is coming up **Tuesday, March 10**, at 11:30 EDT, 10:30 CDT, 9:30 MDT, 8:30 PDT. The conference number is 1-800-377-8846, and the access code is 15795891#. We will spend a good portion of the call discussing the ***Initial Research and Evaluation Concepts*** document introduced on the February conference call. This brief paper suggests that some of the constructs and methods of organizational network analysis may be useful for tracking the development and evolution of public health PBRNs. We anticipate that this type of analysis—a self-study of sorts—will be a useful and revealing collaborative research effort involving all 5 PBRN networks, and ultimately the full set of 15 networks. But we need to hear from you about this concept.



(Pssst, grantees...I heard Dr. Mays say in the Coordinating Center staff meeting that he is going to be quiet and let you talk, so get ready! -Fly on the Wall)

- Thank you for the time and effort invested in the ***PBRN Technical Assistance Survey!*** Your input is being compiled into a report that we will send out on Monday, March 9. We will review this information and discuss the process for identifying and requesting technical assistance during next week's PBRN conference call. Thanks again for the quick turnaround!
- ***The PBRN National Advisory Group*** met for a planning conference call this week. Their enthusiasm for practice-based research is contagious! They are looking forward to meeting with grantees at Keeneland, sharing ideas for developing and facilitating practice-based research, and increasing the visibility of grantees' work. See more about Advisory Group members thoughts on ARRA funding in the *Activities on the Horizon* section of the newsletter.

Ongoing PBRN Activities

- **PBRN Grantee Meeting @Keeneland on Tuesday, April 7.**
 - ***We want your ideas!*** This is your first face-to-face meeting with each other, and we want to make the most of the opportunity for in-depth discussions. What kinds of strategies are grantees using to develop their networks, prioritize research interests, and plan initial research activities? Do you want to know? Are you willing to share? Members of the PBRN National Advisory Group will also be on hand for these discussions. How would you like to utilize their expertise?
 - ***Travel Expenses for the PBRN Grantee Meeting.*** You should have received an email this week from Sharla Smith outlining the travel details. The PBRN Coordinating Center will support travel expenses for up to two participants from each network to attend the grantee meeting on April 7. Please contact Sharla with any questions about travel—smithsharlalaa@uams.edu or 501-526-6629.
 - ***PBRN Panel.*** Many thanks to the volunteers from each PBRN who will participate in the panel at the Keeneland Conference on Wednesday, April 8! Plan to take about 10 minutes each, plus Q&A time, to describe the structure of your network, the array of organizations involved, roles/responsibilities of key network members, initial research interests, and processes being used to facilitate exchange between practitioners and researchers.

Activities on the Horizon

- AcademyHealth recently released its preliminary conference agenda, and multiple sessions each day will appeal to PBRN practitioners and researchers. Log on to <http://www.academyhealth.org/arm/agenda/index.htm> to see what is offered in the overarching themes of public health, organizational performance and management, health care workforce, and several quality topics. Methods workshops for health services research are available at all skill levels. The conference is June 28-30 in Chicago.
- And don't forget about the ***Special Interest Group Meeting on Public Health Systems Research*** scheduled at the end of the AcademyHealth conference June 30 and July 1 in Chicago. There is currently a call for student scholarships to attend this meeting, and a call for nominations for the Article of the Year in public health systems research. All the information is at: <http://www.academyhealth.org/interestgroups/phsr/2009.htm>
- Details continue to emerge about America's Reinvestment and Recovery Act of 2009 (ARRA), or "the stimulus money." Members of our National Advisory Group suggest that PBRNs look carefully for opportunities from the Prevention and Wellness Fund and the Health IT programs in DHHS, as well as the Comparative Effectiveness

Research (CER) allocation to AHRQ. The Health IT program may be a particularly good opportunity for PBRN members to assist affiliated public health agencies with funding applications to modernize computing infrastructure and for evidence-based technologies such as electronic disease surveillance systems. And of course, PBRNs may be excellent vehicles for studying the utilization and impact of these infrastructure infusions. To register for email updates on AHRQ's CER funding, go to <http://effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/>.

- The newly launched Health Workforce Information Center is a virtual clearinghouse for data and research, funding, policy, events, state resources, publications, and other information related to health workforce issues. Information is available on some public health professions and workforce matters, and an opportunity also exists to add information we have available. For PBRNs examining workforce issues, this may be a good place to post your results after publication. Supported by HRSA's Bureau of Health Professions, the URL is <http://www.healthworkforceinfo.org/>.

Key Upcoming Dates

March 10 – Monthly PBRN conference call, 11:30 EDT, 10:30 CDT, 9:30 MDT, 8:30 PDT.

March 13 - Deadline for registration for the *Keeneland Conference on Public Health Systems and Services Research*.

www.publichealthsystems.org/media/file/2009KCRegistrationFormPDF.pdf

April 7 - *PBRN Grantee Meeting* held in conjunction with the Keeneland Conference, Lexington KY.

April 8-9: *Keeneland Conference on Public Health Systems and Services Research*.

Lexington, KY. www.publichealthsystems.org/media/file/2009KCRegistrationFormPDF.pdf

Funding Opportunities for Public Health Systems Research

- CDC has released a new FOA for R18 translational research projects that appears particularly well-suited for public health PBRNs, entitled, *Translating Research to Protect Health through Health Promotion, Prevention, and Preparedness*. Critical to CDC's mission is new scientific knowledge that can accelerate the translation of research findings into public health practice. Moving the best science into practice is essential to protect and improve health. To that end, the purpose of this FOA is to accelerate the translation of proven effective interventions into public health practice through implementation, dissemination, and diffusion research.

LOI Date: March 23, 2009

Submission Date: April 21, 2009

More information is available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/od/pgo/funding/CD09-001.htm>

- Grantees may qualify for Wal-Mart Foundation’s State Giving Program Grant in the areas of Health and Wellness and Workforce Development. Their announcement reads: “Through the State Giving Program, the Wal-Mart Foundation supports organizations that create opportunities so people can live better. The Foundation has four areas of focus: Education, Health and Wellness, Environmental Sustainability and Workforce Development/Economic Opportunity. Deadline: April 17, 2009
More specific grant information is available at:
<http://walmartstores.com/CommunityGiving/8169.aspx?p=8168>
- A new National Collaborative on Childhood Obesity Research (NCCOR) was recently announced. The partnership between CDC, NIH and RWJF is intended to synergize the efforts of the three organizations and have an impact on obesity more quickly by addressing the efficiency and effectiveness of obesity research. The website is www.nccor.org.
- The William T. Grant Foundation has issued a RFP for research “on the factors that affect policy makers’ and practitioners’ acquisition, interpretation, and use of research evidence. Grant awards ranging from \$100,000 to \$600,000 for direct and indirect costs for two to three years of work are anticipated. Interdisciplinary projects are welcome. Visit www.wtgrantfoundation.org/ for complete program guidelines. Letters of inquiry are due by May 12, 2009.
- A new program announcement from the National Institutes of Health looks particularly well suited for practice-based research in public health. *Using Systems Science Methodologies to Protect and Improve Population Health (R21)*. This FOA solicits Exploratory/Developmental (R21) applications from institutions/organizations that propose to apply one or more specific system science methodologies to “policy resistant” public health problems and contribute knowledge that will enhance effective decision making around the development of and prioritization of policies, interventions, and programs to improve population health in the U.S. and abroad, especially where resources are limited and only a limited number of programs/policies/interventions can be implemented. Standard NIH submission deadlines apply. <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-08-224.html>
- RWJF is developing a new program focus area on public health law that is likely to open new opportunities for research on the design, implementation, and impact of public health law and policy. We will keep you apprised of funding opportunities.

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